



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

cen

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/569,549	02/27/2006	Johann Drexler	32860001004US	7746
30596 7590 10/09/2007 HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C. P.O. BOX 8910 RESTON, VA 20195			EXAMINER LEON, EDWIN A	
			ART UNIT 2833	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 10/09/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<p align="center">Office Action Summary</p>	Application No. 10/569,549	Applicant(s) DREXLER ET AL.	
	Examiner Edwin A. León	Art Unit 2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 September 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
|---|--|

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on September 24, 2007 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-6 and 8-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Isobe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,193,566) in view of Dobrosielski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,136,924). With respect to claims 1, 3, 4-5 and 14, Isobe discloses (in Fig. 11A) a switching device for the connection of a conductor by means via a ring terminal, comprising: a preassembled component (8, 14, 16) including a holder (16) and a screw-

with-washer assembly (8, 14), the screw-with-washer assembly being held by the holder and forming, together with a connection piece (6), a clamping point (W2) for the conductor connection via the ring terminal, the holder being linearly movable between an open and a closed state of the clamping point and including a spring element (18) applied to the holder, which holds the holder in the open state when the clamping point is released, a housing (9, 10) and the component being secure in the housing to form a complete clamping device.

Isobe discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the holder having guide grooves on opposing sides.

Dobrosielski teaches (in Fig. 1) a similar connector having a holder (11) having guide grooves (25) on opposing sides.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Isobe by having the holder having guide grooves on opposing sides as taught in Dobrosielski in order to prevent inadvertent separation of the device (Dobrosielski, Column 2, Lines 28-29).

With respect to claim 2, Isobe discloses (in Fig. 11A) the component being not provided with a cover.

With respect to claim 6, Isobe discloses (in Fig. 11A) the assembled clamping device being in the form of a module, the switching device module being attachable to the switching device.

With respect to claim 8, Isobe discloses (in Fig. 11A) a switching device for the connection of a conductor via a ring terminal, comprising: a housing (9,10) supporting a

connection piece (6); and a holder (16) supporting a screw-with-washer assembly (8, 14); wherein the holder is mounted on the housing for linear movement between an open state in which the screw-with-washer assembly is spaced apart from the connection piece, and a closed state in which the screw-with-washer assembly is screw coupled to the connection piece.

With respect to claim 9, Isobe discloses (in Fig. 11A) the clamping device being in the form of a module that is attachable to the switching device, and the spring element is prestressed over a narrow point protruding from the holder.

With respect to claim 10, Isobe discloses (in Fig. 11A) the spring element being prestressed over a narrow point protruding from the housing.

With respect to claim 11, Isobe discloses (in Fig. 11A) the holder including a round opening (on 14) matched to a head (8) of the screw for accommodating the screw-with-washer assembly.

With respect to claim 12, Isobe discloses (in Fig. 11A) the holder including a bottom surface and a protrusion (17) extending from the bottom surface.

With respect to claim 13, Isobe discloses (in Fig. 11A) the spring element being applied to the holder via the protrusion.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6 and 8-14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (571) 272-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Edwin A. Leon/
AU 2833